



Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600100004-7

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

30 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Richard Kennedy
The White House

SUBJECT : Suggested Modifications in Text of
"Talking Points on Lam Son 719"

Per your request, we have studied the paper entitled,
"Talking Points on Lam Son 719" and are offering some
suggestions for slight modifications in the text. Our
suggestions are set forth in this note's attachment.

Richard Helms
Director

Attachment

O/DCI/SAVA
GACarver/mee
Distribution
Orig - Addressee w/att
1 - ER w/att
2 - SAVA w/att

1 - VAS/RAC for file
1 - Mac C. Crois

Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600100004-7

SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS

Proposed new words are underlined. Words in present text that we suggest be excised are enclosed in brackets and lined through.

1. Paragraph 2, page 2, second sentence:

But reported ~~/respective/~~ enemy losses were more than 13,000 killed and many more were wounded.

2. Paragraph 2, page 2, fourth sentence:

Exaggerated reports of enemy losses in Vietnam have been numerous, but this time ~~/the figure may be low/~~ the enemy acted more aggressively

3. Paragraph 3, page 2, last clause of second sentence plus third sentence:

...food obtained from areas which had previously been under Viet Cong control in South Vietnam but which are now /firmly/ under the authority of the government. Moreover, the Communists ~~/he/~~ had suffered great losses

4. Paragraph 4, page 4, second sentence:

Viewed in conjunction with ARVN operations conducted simultaneously in Cambodia, these two efforts have probably precluded major enemy offensive operations in South Vietnam during the current dry season.

5. After end of paragraph 4 on page 4, suggest you add the following new paragraph:

Hanoi will of course want to mask the extent to which its capabilities have been impaired and will therefore endeavor to act as if it is playing from strength. To project this image, the Communists may be willing to spend additional manpower capital in the days immediately

ahead by trying to mount a sharp flurry of attacks in the northern part of South Vietnam, and elsewhere if they can get such attacks off the ground. Such attacks may be specifically directed against U.S. units in an endeavor to increase American casualties, whatever the cost to Hanoi. Nonetheless, we still believe the Communists have lost the ability to mount sustained major offensives and believe the overall record of Communist activity over the next few months will support this contention.

6. Page 7, final paragraph:

The operation has achieved its primary objective of carrying the fight to the enemy's sanctuaries and disrupting ~~/destroying/~~ his principal lines of communications